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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAGRARIO JOSEFINA SERNA,  
Plaintiff,

v.

FAMILY DOLLAR INC., and DOES  
1 to 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 5:23-cv-01191 DOC (BFMx)  
[Riverside County Superior Court Case No.  
CVRI 2204341]

[Assigned to Hon. David O. Carter, District  
Judge; Hon. Brianna Fuller Mircheff,  
Magistrate Judge]

**ORDER ON PARTIES' STIPULATION  
TO CAP PLAINTIFF'S JUDGMENT,  
AWARD, OR RECOVERY AND TO  
REMAND [10]**

Complaint Filed: October 4, 2022

The Court, having read and considered the Parties' Stipulation to Cap Plaintiff's Judgment, Award, or Recovery and to Remand, hereby ORDERS as follows:

**I. BACKGROUND**

On or about October 4, 2022, Plaintiff SAGRARIO JOSEFINA SERNA (hereinafter "Plaintiff") commenced the above-entitled civil action in the Superior Court for the County of Riverside by filing a Complaint therein entitled *Sagrario Josefina Serna v. Family Dollar, Inc., et al.*, Case No. CVRI 202204341. Plaintiff's

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1 Complaint for personal injury arises from an alleged incident on October 9, 2020, at  
 2 defendant Family Dollar's ("Defendant" or "Family Dollar") store in Riverside,  
 3 California.

4 On or about May 23, 2023, Plaintiff, by and through her counsel of record,  
 5 served a Statement of Damages, setting forth damages in excess of \$75,000.00.  
 6 Based on this, Family Dollar determined that the amount in controversy exceeded the  
 7 \$75,000.00 statutory minimum. Accordingly, Family Dollar removed the matter to  
 8 federal court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1332, 1441, and 1367, on June 21, 2023.

9 The parties have now agreed and stipulated to limit any and all recovery of  
 10 damages by Plaintiff to a maximum of \$74,999.99, exclusive of interest or costs, as  
 11 evidenced by the Stipulation to Cap Plaintiff's Judgment, Award, or Recovery and  
 12 To Remand, executed by Plaintiff and Defendant by and through their attorneys of  
 13 record and by Plaintiff individually. Accordingly, the parties request an order from  
 14 this Court remanding the case to the Riverside County Superior Court, Case No.  
 15 CVRI 2204341.

## 16 II. ANALYSIS

17 United States Code, Title 28, Section 1447(c), provides that "[i]f at any time  
 18 before final judgment it appears that the district court lacks subject matter  
 19 jurisdiction, the case *shall be remanded.*" (Emphasis added). In light of the parties'  
 20 stipulation limiting any and all recovery by Plaintiff to a maximum of \$74,999.99,  
 21 exclusive of interest or costs, this Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction and must,  
 22 therefore, remand the case to state court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c). *See Bruns*  
 23 *v. NCUA* 122 F.3d 1251, 1257 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1997) ("Section 1447(c) is mandatory, not  
 24 discretionary.")

## 25 III. ORDER OF THE COURT

26 1. Plaintiff's total recovery, if any, from Defendant Family Dollar, and/or  
 27 its agents, employees, parents, subsidiaries, or affiliated and related business entities,  
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1 for any injuries, damages, harms, or losses resulting from the alleged incident that  
2 occurred on Defendant's premises on or about October 9, 2020, and which are the  
3 subject of the within action (including formerly Riverside County Superior Court  
4 Case No.: CVRI 2204341) (the "Litigation), including but not limited to economic  
5 and non-economic damages, is hereby capped at \$74,999.99, exclusive of interest  
6 and costs.

7       2. If any judgment or award, entered in Plaintiff's favor and against  
8 Defendant Family Dollar, and/or its agents, employees, parents, subsidiaries, or  
9 affiliated and related business entities, in the Litigation should exceed \$74,999.99,  
10 exclusive of interest and costs, Plaintiff has knowingly and voluntarily waived the  
11 right to claim that portion of her final judgment or award which exceeds \$74,999.99,  
12 exclusive of interest and costs.

13       3. Should any judgment or award, exclusive of interest and costs, be entered  
14 in her favor and against Defendant Family Dollar, and/or its agents, employees,  
15 parents, subsidiaries, or affiliated and related business entities, in the Litigation in  
16 excess of \$74,999.99, Plaintiff shall execute any necessary documents to reduce any  
17 such award or judgment to \$74,999.99, and is barred from executing on any amount  
18 of the award or judgment in excess of \$74,999.99, exclusive of interests and costs.

19       4. Pursuant to the parties' Stipulation, because this matter no longer exceeds  
20 \$75,000.00, this Court no longer has subject matter jurisdiction and the matter is  
21 hereby REMANDED to the Superior Court for the State of California, County of  
22 Riverside, Case No.: CVRI 2204341. All other terms of this Order shall be given full  
23 force and effect in any further state court proceeding.

24       5. All pending dates in the Federal action are hereby vacated.

25 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

26 Dated: June 27, 2023

*David O. Carter*  
27 Hon. David O. Carter  
28 United States District Court Judge